

The other side we will consider for a moment.

A medical and surgical hospital should be free from noise and everything tending to promote and occasion excitement; hence, unless windows were securely barred and doors locked the medical and surgical patients would be found laboring under an impending dread continually of being visited or attacked by some of those poor, unfortunate acute mental victims, who are by nature of their disease prone to make escape or attack someone.

In conclusion, I believe there will be manifold obstacles to surmount before the acme of such a combine can bud and ripen into the practicability of consigning insane patients to the care and keeping of private hospital domains.

BESSIE BANNISTER.

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DEAR EDITOR: Having read your JOURNAL with interest during the past six months, and enjoying the information afforded, I would be pleased if you could give space sometime for a little explanation of the following. During the past spring in the vicinity where I reside a severe case of pneumonia was treated by the serum treatment. The patient recovered after a long convalescence. Very bad abscesses formed after the injection of the fluid.

Not having used the treatment in my practice yet, I would like to know something about it. Does it always cause the formation of abscesses? Does it act on the lungs directly? Are there heart complications to be watched for?

ALICE HEATLEY,

Nurse in charge of McKean County Home, Smethport, Pa.

[REPLY]

Pneumotoxin has been used in pneumonia in an experimental way for the last two or three years with rather doubtful results, about the same proportion of recoveries occurring with the use of the serum as without it. The majority of opinions is rather against its use, although, owing to the fact that the introduction of the serum does not interfere with the use of other remedies, those objecting do not urge their objection very strongly.

The serum is expensive and difficult to obtain, the process being somewhat similar to that used in producing the diphtheria antitoxin.

When given it is in the quantity of twenty-two cubic centimetres injected subcutaneously, repeated every six to eight hours until a marked change for the better occurs. Frequently one dose is sufficient, while at times three or four must be given.

Some authorities claim that the introduction of the serum counteracts the toxic effects of the germ, others that it acts directly on the germ itself.

Abscesses should not follow the introduction of the serum, and if such occur, they are probably caused by the impurities in the serum or, which is much more likely, to an imperfect technique and lack of cleanliness at the time of injection.

No heart complication arises from its correct use.

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27 LARGO IL MIGNONE, FLORENCE, ITALY, June 2, 1902.

DEAR EDITOR: In this month's JOURNAL on page 686 I find a cure given for warts, and it occurs to me that some of your readers may be glad to know of another and very simple treatment the efficacy of which I can vouch for. From some friend or other I had been told of this cure, and having, in our Medical Mission surgery, a bad case of warts on the hand, for which all the caustic appli-

cations tried had proved useless, I thought to tell our patient of the remedy and let her put it to the test. When next I saw her it was several months later, and then no trace of the former disfigurement was visible. On inquiring I found that this was the result of the cure suggested. Since then I have recommended it to others with good results. The treatment is simply to suck the warts the first thing in the morning on awakening and *before* the mouth has been in any way rinsed out. The saliva has then a peculiar chemical action upon the warts and by degrees causes them to disappear. The treatment should be persevered in till this result is attained. As there is a chemical reason for this treatment, and it is so simple a one, it really deserves to be made known!

TH. A. ROBERTS,  
Directress Florence Medical Mission.

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DEAR EDITOR: The March number of your AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING is before me. I have looked over "The History of Visiting Nurse Work in America," by Harriet Fulmer, and enjoyed it very much.

I write to say that she omitted a very important work of this kind being done in this city.

The church of which I am pastor has had a visiting nurse in the field for several years. Our present nurse is Miss Mary J. McKibbin, of Newburg, N. Y. Her work is most satisfactory, and the church is accomplishing much through her that it could not possibly do otherwise.

I would be glad if you notice this omission in your excellent journal.

With assurance of high regards, yours truly,

WILLIAM M. ANDERSON,  
Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tenn.

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DEAR EDITOR: Is there no way to do away with one great evil to our profession, and that is the graduating of pupils from hospitals of not more than fifteen or twenty beds? A board of directors start these hospitals oftentimes for private gain, and decide that the cheapest means of having the nursing done is the training-school. They then proceed to become incorporated and start a school for nurses. The pupils spend from two to three years under this management, generally obtaining only a surgical training, with insufficient theoretical instruction, little practical experience in general diseases, and absolutely none in maternity or contagious nursing. In spite of all this, however, at the end of the specified period, with a great flourish of trumpets, the public is invited to the graduation of these nurses(?), when it witnesses the presentation of beautifully engraved diplomas bearing on them huge seals and the names of numerous officers of the hospital and medical boards, and these women are launched on the world as trained nurses, and are in a position to compete with those of us who are graduated from the best training-schools. It seems to me that no State or province should incorporate a training-school in a hospital of less than seventy-five beds. There are numbers of good trained nurses who would be glad to do the work in these small hospitals at a fair salary, and the benefit to the hospital and public would be infinitely greater.

B. H. C.

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[LETTERS to the Editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communications cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the JOURNAL unless so desired.—ED.]